

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE**

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER
OF INSURANCE**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE
OF STEPHEN DARRINGTON
NPN: 16505499**

**VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT**

NOW COME, Stephen Darrington (hereinafter "Mr. Darrington") and the Agent Services Division of the N.C. Department of Insurance (hereinafter "Agent Services Division"), and hereby voluntarily and knowingly enter into the following Voluntary Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "this Agreement").

WHEREAS, the Agent Services Division has the authority and responsibility for enforcement of the insurance laws of this State, and for regulating and licensing insurance agents and agencies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Darrington currently holds a Non-Resident Producer's license with authority for Life insurance issued by the Agent Services Division; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 58-2-69(c) provides that if a licensee is convicted in any court or competent jurisdiction for any crime or offense other than a motor vehicle infraction, the licensee shall notify the Commissioner within 10 business days after the date of the conviction; and "conviction" includes an adjudication of guilt, a plea of guilty, or a plea of "nolo contendere; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Darrington was convicted in the Court of Common Pleas, Lucas, Ohio, Case G-4801-CR-0202202891 on August 30, 2023 of the crime of Compounding a Crime, purportedly involving the misrepresentation of food stamp assistance eligibility by not reporting income, a misdemeanor of the 1st Degree, for which he was placed on probation for one (1) year and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$21,076.00 to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Darrington's conviction was not reported to the Agent Services Division within 10 business days after the date of conviction as required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-2-69(c), and therefore Mr. Darrington was in violation thereof; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-46(a)(2) provides that the Commissioner may place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew any license

issued under Article 58 of the General Statutes of North Carolina for violating any insurance law of this or any other state, violating any administrative rule, subpoena, or order of the Commissioner or of another state's regulator; and

WHEREAS, N. C. Gen. Stat. § 58-2-70 provides that whenever the Commissioner has reason to believe that any person has violated any law that would subject the license or certification of that person to suspension or revocation, the Commissioner is authorized, in lieu of a hearing, to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement as to the status of the person's license or certificate or to any civil penalty or restitution; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Darrington has agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve the matters referenced in this Agreement on behalf of himself, and the Agent Services Division has agreed not to pursue additional civil ramifications, including penalties, sanctions, remedies, or restitution based on these matters against Mr. Darrington; and

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement mutually wish to resolve this matter by consent before the Agent Services Division initiates an administrative hearing; and have reached a mutually agreeable resolution of this matter as set out in this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in exchange for the consideration and promises and agreements set out herein, Mr. Darrington and the Agent Services Division hereby agree to the following:

1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Mr. Darrington shall pay a civil penalty of **\$250.00** to the Agent Services Division. The form of payment shall be by certified check, cashier's check, or money order. The check or money order for the payment of this civil penalty shall be payable to the "North Carolina Department of Insurance." Mr. Darrington shall remit the civil penalty by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Agent Services Division along with a copy of this signed Agreement. The civil penalty and the signed Agreement must be received by the Agent Services Division no later than **February 15, 2024**. The civil penalty shall be subject to disbursement in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 7 of the North Carolina Constitution for the benefit of public schools.
2. This Agreement does not in any way affect the Agent Services Division's disciplinary power in any future examination of Mr. Darrington or in any other complaints involving Mr. Darrington.
3. Mr. Darrington enters into this Agreement, on behalf of himself, freely and voluntarily and with the knowledge of his right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. Mr. Darrington understands he may consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Agreement.
4. The parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement shall have the full force and effect of an Order of the Commissioner. Mr. Darrington understands that N.C.G.S. § 58-

33-46(a)(2) provides that a producer's license may be revoked for violating an Order of the Commissioner.

5. This Agreement, when finalized, will be a public record and will **not** be held confidential by the Department. Following the execution of this Agreement, all licenses issued by the Agent Services Division to Mr. Darrington shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against him. The Agent Services Division is free to disclose the contents of this Agreement with third parties upon request or pursuant to any law or policy providing for such disclosure. The Agent Services Division, upon request, will provide a copy of the voluntary settlement agreement to companies that have appointed the licensee.
6. The parties have read and understand this Agreement and agree to abide by the terms and conditions stated herein.
7. Be aware that if a state or federal regulator other than the Agent Services Division has issued an occupational or professional license to you, that regulator may require you to report this administrative action to it. The Agent Services Division cannot give you legal advice as to the specific reporting requirements of other state or federal regulators.



Stephen Darrington
NPN: 16505499

Date: 1-12-24

N.C. Department of Insurance
Agent Services Division



Joe Wall
Deputy Commissioner

Date 1/18/2024